HCON3 GUEST LIST
SMV 79

The Xanadu* Hypertext System, expected to go into operation in 1980, is a public-access data storage system and publication medium. Writings and pictures stored within the system may be called to a user's screen within seconds. (Not the whole object, but the next part wanted, comes at once.) Users at home may access the system via telephone or Telenet, using screen terminals, printing terminals, or home computers.

Many vaguely comparable systems are being prepared for the personal and research market. However, unlike systems designed by engineers and computer people, the Xanadu System has a strong literary and liberal-arts bias.

It is a literary system, meaning that it handles connected bodies of writing; and that authors, editors, publishers, copyright and royalty all have a place.

It is a hypertext system, meaning it can handle not merely ordinary sequential text, but non-sequential writing as well. (For simplicity's sake, the word "text" below may be thought of as embracing hypertext as well.)

It is a compound hypertext system, allowing texts to be built up from other texts, which are in turn built up from other texts... and so on. This is kept simple and ruly by making sure that each document has an author or owner; nothing loses identity or is contributed by the system itself.

Indeed, it is a "grand" compound hypertext system, meaning we may conceive that very large and self-sufficient bodies of writing might live entirely within it, and that some people might use nothing else.

(From a computer point of view, it is a software system for the indexing and management of immense linked and parallel files, sequential or polymorphous, unrelated to specific hardware or future hardware innovations, to be offered by a network of licensed on-line vendors.)

THE KEY DETAILS.

Whenever a new thing is written, or a new version of something is created, or a new connection is made between two things, the result is called a "document."

A document may be of any size.

Every document has an owner.

A document may consist of text and/or links (explained below).

The Swarthmore College Computing Center presents
the third semi-annual hypertext conference

HYPERCON 3

"NEXT YEAR IN XANADU"*

Saturday 10 Nov 79
at DuPont Hall, Swarthmore College.

➪ The objective of this mini-conference is to familiarize interested parties with the exact structure of the Xanadu* Hypertext System. No computer background is required, though it helps to have a love of reading, a generalist outlook and a zestful appreciation of the interconnection of all ideas.

10 AM. STUART GREENE '76: "A Miracle of Rare Device: Introduction to the Xanadu Hypertext System."

Why go all-electronic. Literature as a system. Philosophy of categories (they don't last) and interconnection (there are no boundaries). Why everything has to be available instantly. Why it can.

11 AM. TED NELSON '59: "Five Little Link-Types and How They Grew: All the Author and Reader Need to Know about the Xanadu System."

How it all fits together. The many needs of readers, writers, thinkers: facilities for intercomparison, annotation, alternative versions and historical backtrack. Keeping it simple and clear. Visualization graphics for user consoles.

Noon. Lunch break.

2 PM. Roundtable discussion with MARK MILLER, ROGER GREGORY, STUART GREENE, TED NELSON: "What Kinds of Footnotes Will Drunken Lawyers Leave on the Dress Patterns? Plications of the Xanadu System: Ap, Im and Com."

➪ Those attending are urged to bring up their own specific uses and needs for the system, such as the storage and transmission of: electronic mail, teleconferencing, music scholarship, architectural graphics, Landsat photos, hyper-symphonies, etc. etc.

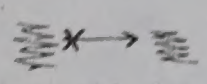
For further information call
Ted Nelson or Roger Gregory, 215/543-2111, or E.R. Mullins, Jr., 215/447-7506.

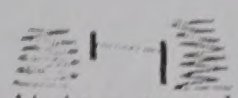
*"Xanadu" is a trade and service mark for computer systems and services offered by T. Nelson for 1980 delivery. "Next Year in Xanadu" and the Eternal Flaming X likewise. ©1979 T. Nelson.

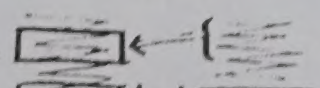
A document may be private (available to its owner and those he permits to use it) or published, in which case anyone may summon it electronically. The owner of a published document gets a royalty whenever it is used (about 5¢ an hour, divisible into teensy amounts for quick looks). An author may quote or borrow from other documents in the system any way he or she likes. The quoted material, when brought to the screen, pays its royalty to the original author.

Links are parts of text, just like paragraphs or parenthetical clauses. The five literary links below may be extended to any authorial purposes we have yet discovered. These links may be used by authors who wish to connect any chunks of data on the system, including texts, diagrams, photographs, animations, musical notations, dress patterns, or any other forms of data having any number of dimensions; and within and between compound documents accreted from any combinations of these.

THE LINK TYPES.

The jump-link [*] is like a footnote. 

The correlink [||] puts two pieces of text side by side. 

The quote-link ["] borrows or quotes material, bringing it to a second document from its place of origin. 

The equilink [=] puts something in two places equally, neither document being its sole place of origin.

The vanilla link [-] connects two points without direction, as in simple hypertext, movie editing, etc.

The Xanadu* Hypertext System is a back-end storage facility for public-access use from personal computers and terminals. Its unusual features include very rapid feeder service, complex linkage facilities, historical backtrack and alternative versions. Extremely simple in concept, with no command language or complex filing conventions, it may be used directly for electronic publishing, electronic mail, teleconferencing, and other text-related services, as well as hypertext (non-sequential writing). Very large documents may be stored and edited conveniently. Multi-dimensional data (as for graphics) may be stored for rapid lookup, at some storage overhead for additional dimensions.

The objective has been to create a Total Literary System. Literature as we know it-- the system of interconnected documents and personal roles, like author/editor/publisher-- is debugged. The goal of Project Xanadu is mainly to electronify, speed up and enhance the benefits of this system as we already know it. For instance, any document published on our network may be quoted extensively by any other document without copyright violation, since the original author of the quotations gets the royalty when his part is read. You may link to any public document from your public or private document. Others in turn may link to you without your permission. You may even create a revised version of any public document, as you think it should have been written-- but with the original author getting the lion's share of the royalty.

In order to publish through our system, the author contractually accepts these conditions. Our contract for electronic publishing provides a standard royalty for all authors (presently set to 5¢/hour). Those insisting on higher fees may use other arrangements but lose the benefit of promiscuous linkage.

Certain link types are supported for literary use, generalizing the footnote, marginal note, quotation and alternative version. (Other link types may be micro-specified for particular needs, at the risk of difficulty for readers.) ALL LINKS ARE EXTENSIBLE TO ALL DATA TYPES.

The system does not categorize, since all categorization is biased and transient. Users and authors categorize, and are encouraged to publish their own directories of the system. The linkage facilities allow users readily to produce new indexes or clarifying writeups to what is already stored. Thus each generation sees the past anew.

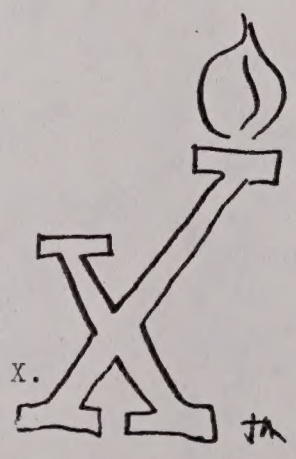
Since the anticipated network will be built up of licensed stands spread throughout the country, business opportunities may arise for those wishing to open stands. (Note that this conjectural statement is not an offer of any kind; such offerings will be made, if at all, explicitly at a later time.)

In addition, software vendors will be encouraged to furnish front-end programs for use with the Xanadu system. Xanadu trademarks will be made available to vendors of approved programs, but obviously user activity at front-end consoles can hardly be restricted.

Public service is slated to begin sometime in 1980, with a target price of about $2/hr (plus communication costs) and disk storage at about 1¢/kday. Block-booking will be available somewhat earlier, at a considerably higher rate, for those needing this system urgently.

Please note. Our systems software will not be made generally available. The complete Xanadu Hypertext System will be offered as a service only.

Next year in Xanadu.*



*Note: "Xanadu" is a trade and service mark for information products and services offered by Ted Nelson, as are "Lightning Literature," "The Wings of Mind," "Next Year in Xanadu," and the Eternal Flaming X.

©1979 Ted Nelson. XBRO 79

XANADU™ COUPON.

To: Ted Nelson, PROJECT XANADU
Box 128, Swarthmore PA 19081

I am interested in the Xanadu™ Hypertext System, in particular:

- ☐ Word Processing
- ☐ Full-text retrieval
- ☐ Hypertext
- ☐ Linkages
- ☐ Historical Backtrack
- ☐ Alternative Versions
- ☐ Graphics (please describe) _____
- ☐ Multidimensional data (how many?) _____
- ☐ Electronic Mail
- ☐ Teleconferencing
- ☐ On-Line Publishing
- ☐ Paper Publishing (editorial functions and layout)
- ☐ In-house document dissemination
- ☐ "Document Build": Assembly, Updating & Boilerplate
- ☐ Linked-text data bases
- ☐ New literary and educational forms
- ☐ "Intellect Augmentation"
- ☐ Complex Annotation and Indexing
- ☐ Research and Scholarship
- ☐ Multi-version document handling
- ☐ Indexing of specific text materials from many viewpoints
- ☐ Other:

- ☐ Please send me the manual for the Xanadu™ Hypertext System as soon as it is ready. I agree to pay its list price (under $10) plus postage and handling. (Signed:) _____
- ☐ Please let me know when the system is actually running on a public-access basis.
- ☐ I am interested in block-booking time on the Early System; please contact me soon.
- ☐ Please keep me informed about business opportunities related to the Xanadu™ Hypertext System. I am interested in
  - ☐ Vending front-end programs or consoles
  - ☐ Operating a Xanadu Hypertext Stand.

GUEST LIST. Hypercon 3, 10 Nov 79

David Staudt — Washington, DC
BARBARA STAUDT — "
David Szent-Gyorgyi — Wellesley, MA (student at Swarts)
Joe Lipson — N.S.F., Wash. D.C. 20550
Jesse Heines — Digital Equipment Corporation
Joan Bannister — Bedford Mass 01730
Cindy Ikuta — Pennington, N.J. (student)
Robert H Mayford — Indpls., In "
Andrew E Turner — Swarthmore College (student)
Matthew Nelson — New York City (student)
ER Mullins Jr. — Swarthmore College.
SB GUTHERY & MANEKAM — tiny c associates
Claire Shetler — Swarthmore (Friends Hist. Library)
Albert Rosenberg — Swarthmore College
Mike Bacon — Swarthmore College
John R. Brace — Swarthmore College (Physics)
Erika Nelson

Debbie Felix

Richard Yanowitch

Wellesley, MA

Swarthmore Student

Swarthmore College

Boswash now
The Belt later

Rev. Hasbrouck

SENZIG

PLACE OF ORIGIN UNCERTAIN

On the Road / student (grad)

Mike Williams

Danny Hillis

{ MIT
A.I. LAB }

Margaret Muuskes

(N.J. LOCAVOR)

Anne Smith

} wahertoo, ont
(only in Canada, eh?)
Pity!

BOSTON, MASS & PTS NORTH

Stuart Greene

ERIC HILL (山東大)

Devyn P. Verity

Here.

A^2

FAN

CALIFORNIA
SOUTHERN
UNIVERSITY